



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/617,480	07/17/2000	Fredrik Olsson	3COM-2366.MCD.US.P	7568

7590 02/04/2004

Wagner Murabito & Hao LLP  
Third Floor  
Two North Market Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

EXAMINER
----------

SEFCHECK, GREGORY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2662

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/617,480

Applicant(s)

OLSSON ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory B Sefcheck

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

- The Applicant's Amendment filed 12/29/2003 is acknowledged.
- Claims 17-35 are pending.
- Claims 1-16 have been cancelled.
- The previous objections to the specification are withdrawn.

### ***Drawings***

1. The replacement drawing of Fig. 8, received 12/29/2003, is acknowledged.
2. The drawings are objected to because of incorrect margins and character of lines, numbers and letters, as shown on the accompanying PTO-948 form. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 17-19, 23, 24, 29, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Adler et al. (US006504851B1), hereafter Adler.

- In regards to Claim 17, 23, and 32,

Abler discloses a method and interface adapter receptacle with a plurality of connecting electrical lines to automatically detect which of a plurality of possible connection types is being received on a connection (Col. 1, lines 15-16; Col. 4, lines 47-50; claim 17/23/32 – apparatus and method allowing multiple connection types; claim 17/23/32 – providing a peripheral with receptacle having a plurality of electrical lines used to detect more than one type of connection).

Referring to Fig. 4, Adler shows that the receptacle uses an RJ-45 connector to detect more than one connection type. Protocol Selection Logic 220 cycles through the appropriate contacts on the connector (Col. 7-9, lines 52-15; claim 17/23/32 – switching logic adapted to couple lines to detection devices to allow detection of type of connection).

Adler utilizes various detection entities (306/314/322/330/338/348) for detecting the types of connections (claim 17/23/32 – plurality of detection devices for detecting the types of connections). Because all possible connection types use a standardized connector, this detection can be done without the use of an intermediate connector device (Fig. 1, 6; Col. 1, lines 44-47; claim 23 – more than one connection can be made without an intermediate connection).

Pathways through the interface are established for a detected connection type.

If a specific connection is not detected, the contacts are switched for an attempt at detecting the other connection types (Col. 7, lines 18-32; claim 32 – determining if detection devices detect a connection, if not, repeating the process for the other connection types; claim 32 – establishing appropriate pathway for communication with detected connection type).

- In regards to Claims 18, 19, 24, 29, and 33,

Adler discloses a method and interface adapter receptacle with a plurality of connecting electrical lines to automatically detect which of a plurality of possible connection types is being received on a connection that covers all limitations of the parent claims.

Adler shows that different physical tests are used to detect the various types of connections, of which one of the types of connections is a LAN (Col. 4-5, lines 65-30; claims 18/33 – detection devices operable to detect the type of connection by a physical test; claim 19/24 – two of detection devices use a different physical test from one another; claim 29 – one of the connection types is a LAN).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 28, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler.

- In regards to Claims 28, 30, and 31,

Adler discloses a method and interface adapter receptacle with a plurality of connecting electrical lines to automatically detect which of a plurality of possible connection types is being received on a connection that covers all limitations of the parent claims.

Adler does not show determining a modem or ISDN connection as one of the types of connections.

The method and apparatus of Adler is utilized by switching the connecting lines of the connector (receptacle) which carefully and non-disruptively orders the protocol detection steps. Separate and independent protocol transceivers, MACs, status & control, and storage units (detection devices) for each connection possibility are utilized while switching between pathways to determine the connection type being received. The method and apparatus could be adapted to implement detection of other connection types over the same standardized connector by replacing or adding

independent detection devices for other connection types, such as a modem or ISDN connection (claim 28 – one of the connection types is ISDN; claim 30 – one of the connection types is modem; claim 31 – a third of the types of connections is ISDN).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus and method of Adler for determining modem and ISDN connections. It is well known that modem and ISDN connections can use the standardized RJ-45 connector disclosed by Adler, as shown in the specification of the applicant on pg. 14, line 6. Modifying the Adler's apparatus and method for determining modem and ISDN connections as well as various LAN-type connections would allow one interface card to be used for reception of more/all connection types/protocols from a common connector, thus reducing necessary internetworking components and cost to the user.

7. Claims 20-22, 25-27, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abler in view of Blackwell et al. (US005671251A), hereafter Blackwell.

- In regards to Claims 20-22, 25-27, 34, and 35,

Abler discloses a method and interface adapter receptacle with a plurality of connecting electrical lines to automatically detect which of a plurality of possible connection types is being received on a connection that covers all limitations of the parent claims.

Adler does not explicitly show the detection devices operable to detect the type of connection by detecting voltage and current.

Blackwell discloses a method and apparatus for selecting between various modem connection types by detecting the level of voltage being received (Col. 6-7, lines 62-5; claim 20/25/34 – one of detection devices is operable to detect type of connection by detecting voltage). Blackwell also shows the use of detecting line current as signaling information for a specific type of connection (Col. 9, lines 8-13; claim 21/22/26/27/35 – one of detection devices is operable to detect type of connection by detecting current).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adapt the method and apparatus of Adler by explicitly utilize detected voltage and/or current detected on the plurality of signal lines for detecting the type of connection being received, as taught by Blackwell. Various connection types can communicate carrying voltages and current, at different levels, providing a built-in way of differentiating which connection type is presently being received on a multi-connection interface.



***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed 12/29/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- On pg. 10 of the Amendment, the Applicant contends that Abler fails to teach or suggest using the connecting lines to detect more than one type of connection.

It is the Examiner's opinion that Abler does show the use of at least one of the connecting lines to detect more than one type of connection. Referring to Fig. 4, Abler shows that lines 7 and 8 are used to detect more than one type of connection.

- On pg. 11 of the Amendment, the Applicant contends that Abler fails to teach or suggest switching logic adapted to couple the appropriate connecting lines to detection devices to allow detection of the type of connection.

It is the Examiner's opinion that Abler does show the use of switching logic, as shown in Fig. 4, to adapt the appropriate connecting lines to detection devices to allow detection of the type of connection.

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Rubenstein et al. (US006594707B1) discloses a smart communication agent

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory B Sefcheck whose telephone number is 703-305-0633. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 703-305-4744. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

GBS  
1-29-2004

  
HASSAN KIZOU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600